

Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-08 AID-20 MED-03 IGA-02 RSR-01

/130 W

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R 100612Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5316

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTINE 5566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SMAR, LA

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) -AD HOC

COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC

REF: CANBERRA 4418

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 7, THE DIRECTOR OF THE RLG FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PLATTHANA) SAID THAT WITH ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT'S (RLG) ACCESSION TO SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD LIKE DETAILED BRIEFING ON CONVENTION (ESPECIALLY RE ARTICLE 24(5)(B) CONCERNING STEPS WHICH RLG MUST TAKE TO SELL OPIUM SEIZED IN THE "ILLICIT" TRAFFIC.

2. CLEARLY THIS IS HIGHLY TECHNICAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO RLG BY KNOWLEDGEABLE U.N. EXPERT. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC DOES NOT INTEND TO VISIT LAOS DURING ITS PROPOSED STUDY TOUR

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IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, U.S.

MISSION GENEVA APPROACH CND AND REQUEST THAT IT FORWARD
TO RLG CLARIFYING INFORMATION ON PRECISE PROCEUDRES
THAT LAOS MUST FOLLOW IN ORDER TO SELL ITS SEIZED OPIUM
IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES LAID DOWN BY THE UNITED NATIONS.
CND COULD SEND THIS INFO TO THE SENIOR U.N. REP IN
VIENTIANE FOR TRANSMISSION TO MR. PLATTHANA (U.N. RESI-
DENT REP IS KENNETH LUKE, AVENUE LANG XANG).

3. COMMENT: FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THIS MATTER IS IMPORTANT
TO THIS MISSION, SINCE -- IN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE RLG
TO ACCEED TO CONVENTION -- WE POINTED OUT THAT ONCE LAOS
WAS A PARTY THERETO, IT WOULD BE ELIGILBE TO BENEFIT FROM
THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 24, WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY IT
COULD NOT SELL SEIZED OPIUM TO OTHER PARTIES.

DEAN

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